

July 30, 2009



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Dear Friend,

As the House considers health care reform, one important aspect is ensuring that the quality of care you receive is not compromised by government involvement in your health care decisions. However, the current legislation provides no guarantee that government bureaucrats will not get involved in decisions between doctors and patients. It is bad enough when insurance companies come between doctors and patients, but can you imagine what would happen when federal employees come between you and your doctor?



To remedy this, Rep. Gingrey, who is himself a

physician, introduced an amendment in the Energy and Commerce Committee to address this problem of government interference. The [amendment](#) reads: **"Nothing in this section shall be construed to allow any federal employee or political appointee to dictate how a medical provider practices medicine."** Remarkably, the Majority members (save one) [voted](#) to **reject** the amendment 33-24. This amendment was a simple way to ensure quality of care would not be compromised by federal employees or political appointees and to guarantee healthcare decisions are made for medical – and not other – reasons. And yet the Majority saw to it that this commonsense provision would not be part of the final legislation.

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Health care reform is crucial, and I support increasing access, affordability, and quality of care for all Americans. But failing to prevent federal bureaucrats from determining the medical care doctors provide their patients is not the way to achieve these objectives. If the House wants to reform the health care system, it must slow down and carefully consider the immediate and future implications, instead of expecting Congress to reform what consumes more than 17 percent of our Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in two short weeks.

I have heard from you about health care reform through your phone calls, e-mails, survey responses, and teletownhall participation. I appreciate your engagement on this issue and have listened to your concerns. I particularly want to highlight the reaction I got during my most recent teletownhall: you can watch the [video](#) of a speech I delivered on the House floor regarding what I learned from you on that phone call. I hope you will continue to share your views and experiences.

Sincerely,



Daniel E. Lungren
Member of Congress

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Would you support a provision in health care reform legislation to prevent federal employees from intervening in the medical care doctors provide?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure

Any additional comments on health care reform?

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